



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 1168  
RELATING TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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Room Number: 225

**Fiscal Implications:** None.

**Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the intent of this measure but recommends deferring action at this time.

The Department is committed to taking measures required to prevent the future releases from all underground storage tanks (USTs). Currently, rules enforced by the Department require that all new USTs (with the exception of field constructed tanks (FCTs)) be provided with secondary containment. Secondary containment is considered to be the most protective configuration for non-FCTS and has been shown to be practical for these tanks which normally have a capacity of less than 60,000 gallons.

However, due to the complexity, size, design and construction of FCTs, such as the Red Hill tanks, secondary containment remains an unproven technology for use at this time. Immense engineering challenges need to be analyzed and creative solutions may need to be developed through the use of pilot studies, before the most appropriate technology and procedures can be selected for implementation at FCTs.

The Department believes that more time and information is needed to determine appropriate upgrades to these older FCTs before requiring immediate changes.

In an effort to address the challenges presented at Red Hill, the U.S. Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, the EPA, and the Department are committed to completing the ongoing negotiations that are designed to produce an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). The AOC is intended to establish a process to make well-researched, well-planned and cost-effective improvements to protect the groundwater resource beneath the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. At this time,

- 1 we believe that this collaborative, enforceable approach provides a preferred way to address the
- 2 environmental concerns posed by this facility. Unfortunately, S.B. 1168 may have the
- 3 unintended consequence of complicating the ongoing negotiations by requiring a specific
- 4 solution which may not yet be practical.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.